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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

Implementation of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9

Twenty-third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9 (A/C.5/62/14).

2. By its resolution 61/110, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER). Under the terms of operative paragraph 42 of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9, the Assembly would endorse the SPIDER plan of work for 2007, the platform programme for the period 2007-2009 and the plan of work for the period 2008-2009, and would request the Secretary-General to implement those activities that are contained in the plan of work for the period 2008-2009.

3. The activities by which the draft resolution would be implemented are outlined in paragraphs 9 to 11 and the related additional resource requirements in paragraphs 13 to 20 of the statement.

4. As indicated in paragraph 14 of the statement, the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs is the supervisor of SPIDER. The Director will be assisted by a programme coordinator and a programme assistant in planning, coordinating and managing activities, together with the leading programme officer from each SPIDER office (Beijing and Bonn) and the Office for Outer Space Affairs at the

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United Nations Office at Vienna. The programme staff would be distributed among four offices, in Bonn, Beijing, Geneva and Vienna.

5. The estimated requirements for 13 new posts (1 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 2 National Officers and 4 General Service) amount to $1,538,000, while non-post resources are estimated at $562,000, for a total additional requirement of $2,100,000. As indicated in paragraph 20 of the statement, it is envisaged that two thirds of the resources needed would be made available through voluntary contributions by Member States that have already indicated a willingness to provide financial and in-kind support for the programme to cover the cost of 10 posts (1 P-5, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 2 National Officers and 4 General Service) totalling $1,064,000, and that non-post requirements amounting to $432,000 would be funded from extrabudgetary resources. As noted in paragraph 18 of the statement, two senior experts would be provided on a secondment basis to the Bonn office by the German Aerospace Centre. The Committee was informed that the Bonn office had opened.

6. Against this backdrop, the estimated additional resources required under section 6, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 amount to $604,000. This amount would cover the cost of three P-4 posts for Programme Officers ($474,000), one each for the offices in Beijing, Bonn and Vienna, as well as non-post costs relating to expert group meetings ($100,000) and travel of staff ($30,000).

7. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 21 of the statement, that no provision has been made under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 in relation to the activities that would be requested under the draft resolution and that it is not possible at this stage to identify activities within section 6 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium in order to meet the additional requirements. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that projected expenditures for 2006-2007 amounted to $6,310,000 against a revised appropriation of $6,175,700, for a projected deficit of $134,300.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.9, an additional appropriation of $604,000 (before recosting) would be required in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under section 6, Peaceful uses of outer space, and $78,000 under section 35, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, those provisions would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**